



SIERRA CLUB

2016 New Hampshire Sierra Club Political Questionnaire NH Executive Council Candidates

Dear New Hampshire Candidate:

This questionnaire, created by members of the New Hampshire Sierra Club (NHSC), is an opportunity for you to clearly express your position on some of the most pressing environmental issues in the Granite State.

The responses derived from the questionnaire are not released to the public. Your responses will be used, in part, for endorsement purposes. Past voting records and interviews may also be used to help clarify a position, as needed. The independent endorsements from NHSC will be made public in our individual newsletters, through press releases, public events and membership meetings.

Your participation is welcome and encouraged. If you choose not to participate with the questionnaire, you may not be endorsed and a “?” rating may be assigned to you as a candidate, which can be interpreted by our members as indifference towards environmental-related issues.

Please call 224-8222 with any questions or for more information on any of the topics addressed in the questionnaire. A hard copy of the questionnaire is available upon request. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us and best of luck to you on your campaign.

Please response to the survey by September 2, 2016.

Sincerely,

Jerry Curran

Co-Chair

NHSC Political Com

Jim Allmendinger

Co-Chair

NHSC Political Com

Information about NH Sierra Club: The 10,000 members and friends of the New Hampshire Sierra Club are proud to be part of America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. Nationally, the Sierra Club has 2 million members and dedicates itself to promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems. The New Hampshire Chapter focuses on issues affecting New Hampshire such as clean air, clean water, global warming, and the protection of wild places. The Club is non partisan and strives to bring people together to find solutions for New Hampshire's ecological challenges.

New Hampshire Sierra Club 40 North Main Street Concord, NH 03301
603/224-8222 Website: www.sierraclub.org/new-hampshire or www.sierraclub.org



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2016 New Hampshire Sierra Club Political Questionnaire NH Executive Council Candidates

Date: _____

Name: _____

Seat Running for _____ Party _____ Incumbent Yes No

Address _____

Town _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Campaign Contact Person _____

Campaign Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Website _____

Email _____

For more information on these important environmental issues facing New Hampshire and states across the nation, please visit www.sierraclub.org/new-hampshire or www.sierraclub.org.

If you need more space to answer questions, please attach additional pages.



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1. We, Granite Staters take great pride in our healthy environment, beautiful forests, safe communities and quality of life. However, we now know that each of these attributes must be actively protected, given so many challenges.

What state environmental issues concern you most in running for this elected position? Please number your top 5 issues:

- Finding solutions to climate disruption
- Developing new renewable energy projects
- Supporting the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
- Supporting strong air pollution safeguards
- Protection of New Hampshire watersheds, including the Great Bay and its tributaries
- Siting of power plants
- Siting of electric transmission lines
- Funding state energy efficiency programs
- Public transportation
- Transit oriented development
- Drinking water protection
- Ground water withdrawals
- Oppose Northern Pass
- Limiting toxic air pollution from mobile sources
- Road salt pollution in streams and rivers
- Landfill space and siting
- Creating dedicated funding for recycling
- Bacterial levels in lakes and ponds
- River protections
- Adopting stronger wetlands protections
- Improving wildlife habitat protections
- Protecting State Parks and Forests
- Land and Community Heritage Investment Program
- Managing OHRV trails on public land
- Strengthening the Right-To-Know Law

Others: _____

2. What do you feel has been your greatest environmental achievement or highest environmental priority as either an individual or as an elected official?

3. Please list any other elected or appointed positions(s) you hold or have held locally or on the state level?

4. Appointment

The Executive Council is charged with the responsibility for confirming or rejecting nominees to councils, boards, commissions and departments. Some appointees, such as Public Utilities Commissioners, Site Evaluation Committee and members of the environmental appeals councils such as the Air Resources Council and the Wetlands Council, have adjudicative responsibilities. It is important that decision-making authority be exercised fairly and impartially, without bias or the appearance of bias.

To date, past legislators, former employees of regulatory agencies and retirees of regulated companies have been confirmed as regulators over entities or industries which previously employed them creating a conflict of interest.

Would you oppose nominees to councils, boards, commissions and departments who have similar conflicts of interest?

Yes No Explain

5. Northern Pass Proposed Project

Northern Pass is controversial. Efforts to craft compromise plans have yet to satisfy all who are concerned about the adverse effects of such a large project and Granite Staters question whether the beneficiaries of the project are New Hampshire residents or the residents of the larger states to our south. NHSC opposes the project for three reasons:

- The massive reservoirs in Canada are actually flooded rivers and valleys that were home to native peoples. The flooding has devastated hunting and fishing grounds, as well as sacred sites and villages. The government of Canada plans for new flooding and reservoir construction with the Northern Pass proposal.
- The expected influx of energy will stymie future clean energy development by consuming the investments that would otherwise have gone to local distributed energy, energy efficiency, and weatherization programs.
- Private property owners are not being adequately compensated for the change of use of these 60-80 year old utility easements even though Northern Pass is breaking the terms of the lease by expanding their facilities and using it for international transmission.

Do you support the Northern Pass Project?

Yes No Explain

6. Natural Gas/Methane

This year Kinder Morgan's controversial proposal for expansion of a natural gas pipeline was withdrawn from the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee. Kinder Morgan's North East Energy Direct pipeline would have gone through 27 communities in the southern quarter of the state using eminent domain. NHSC opposed the expansion for similar reasons as Northern Pass – chilling of the renewable market, property rights and ratepayer expense. Massachusetts has will not allow imposing pipeline costs on consumers while Maine has said it will allow imposing cost on consumers if other states do, too.

If it came to the Executive Council's agenda, would you allow utilities to charge consumers directly for pipeline and transmission line expansion costs?

Yes No Explain

7. Commuter Rail

New Hampshire's Executive Council has both approved and opposed funding contracts to propose options for expanded passenger rail between Boston, Mass., and Concord, N.H.

Funding could allow the Bureau of Rail and Transit of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) to study and operate public transit options along the 78-mile Capitol Corridor, including establishing passenger rail service in the Lowell-Nashua-Manchester portion of the corridor and expanding service to Concord.

Do you support funding for expanded commuter rail options for the Capitol Corridor?

Yes No Explain

8. Wildlife Protection

Scientists agree that reducing carbon and other greenhouse gases will help curb wildlife impacts tied to climate change, such as moose dying in large numbers because of warm winters and winter tick infestations. One way to help reduce greenhouse gases is to reduce energy demand in the buildings in which we live, work and play. Conserving energy and investing in energy efficient systems has proven economic and environmental benefits.

As Executive Councilor, would you approve renewable energy projects that reduce energy demand and increase energy efficiency from the renewable energy fund, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund, and other funds?

Yes No Explain

9. Mount Sunapee State Park

Do you support the Executive Council's vote to permit the expansion of the Mount Sunapee Ski Resort, expansion that encroaches on one of New Hampshire's few "old growth" stands of trees older than 200 years old and eliminates year-round use of one of three trails in the state park?

Yes No Explain

10. Cannon Mountain State Park

Do you support the privatization of the Cannon Mountain Ski Area?

Yes No Explain